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the United States; 22 were detained until they could send for friends and procure money and a guarantee of support. All the conditions imposed have since been complied with, and they have been permitted to proceed to their destination. Please find inclosed a manifest of the above immigrants. There is an "X" affixed to the number and names of those that were detained.

Hoping that this report and inspection will meet with your approval, I am,

Respectfully,

PETER B. LAIRD,  
Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION, *Washington, D. C.*

#### REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

*El Paso, Tex., February 24, 1900.*—I have the honor to report the following summary of work during the week ended February 24, 1900: Inspection of Mexican Central Railroad passenger trains, 165 passengers; inspection of Rio Grande and Sierra Madre trains, 36 passengers; inspection of crews of freight trains, 42 men; inspection of international bridge (passenger and street car), 214 people; inspection of immigrants, 29; disinfection of baggage, blankets, and household goods, 15; vaccination of immigrants and their children, 16; disinfection of soiled linen imported for laundry, El Paso, Tex., 319 pieces.

Respectfully,

E. ALEXANDER,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Laredo, Tex., March 1, 1900.*—Reported here to-day that bubonic plague has reached Cozumel on Yucatan coast. If above report is correct it shows, as I said in my letter of February 13, 1900, that the danger of bubonic plague entering Mexico is from Europe and South America more than from China, Philippines, or by way of the Pacific Ocean.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

#### *Smallpox in Searcy, Ark.*

NEW ORLEANS, LA., *February 21, 1900.*

SIR: In obedience to Bureau telegram to proceed immediately to Searcy, Ark., to confer with local authorities and instruct how to inaugurate measures for the suppression of smallpox, I arrived Saturday afternoon, February 17. This town is situated on the Iron Mountain Railroad between Memphis and Little Rock, on a spur of road 4 miles from Higginson on the main line.

It is an important school center for the State, possessing the Bishop Galloway Female College, Spears-Langford Military Institute, Searcy Female Institute, besides the public day schools.

I immediately conferred with Dr. J. M. Jelks, Mayor J. J. Baugh, and Mr. J. A. Marsh of the local board of health. Up to date there had developed about 40 cases of discrete and semiconfluent smallpox, 15 whites and 25 negroes, in a population of 3,000 people.

Three distinct sources of infection were traced, the first in a drummer who returned home to this place before Christmas with the disease and was isolated at his residence, and the second a colored railroad laborer about the same time, who walked in from a near by railroad construction camp.

The storm center, however, surrounded the Galloway Female Boarding School, which I inspected with Dr. Jelks, Sunday morning. Here I saw 13 of the young ladies in the later stages of smallpox isolated in one of the wings of the dormitory. It appears that 1 of the pupils

returned to this school from Stuttgart after the Christmas holidays with measles, which ran its course, and later developed the second eruptions of smallpox, dating the incubative period from the holidays.

There were other cases of measles, and there is little doubt that the eruption of smallpox appeared some little time after the subsidence of the attack of measles.

On February 8, suspicion was raised, the pupils were examined, and 8 mild cases discovered in the class rooms, out of about 120 boarders and 60 or 70 day pupils. The following day the school was closed and the boarders returned to their homes in different parts of the State.

At the small isolated buildings upon the outskirts of the town I found 4 cases in the colored quarters, and there were 2 cases in the white quarters farther off, which I did not see. There had been no deaths, nor was there difference of opinion as to the diagnosis. Isolation was being effected and the town people were pretty generally vaccinated.

In conversation with Mr. Richard B. Willis, principal of the Spears-Langford Military Institute, where Representative McRae's son is a pupil. I found that no cases had occurred, and that the institute had properly quarantined against outside indiscriminate communication. I suggested that, in future, certificates of successful vaccination be required of all pupils before admission, which was agreed to. In conversation with Dr. Godden, president of the Galloway College, I urged the importance of a systematic disinfection of this fine new three-story brick building, from attic to basement, after recovery of the cases now under treatment. For the time being it is a hospital, and infected throughout. The laundry help had contracted the disease from the pupils' clothing. If this disinfection is carried out upon the lines I laid down, the institution can no doubt be reopened in the course of a month and not have its sanitary reputation damaged to any extent throughout the State.

At a meeting at 9 o'clock Monday morning of the board of health, Drs. Moore, Lumpkin, the mayor, and others, I addressed them upon the subjects of isolation, vaccination, and disinfection, dwelling more particularly upon the latter subject, and altogether the community seemed pleased that you had sent a Service representative to their relief.

Owing to extensive railroad development in Arkansas in the last year or two, smallpox has developed and has been widely disseminated from the construction camps, the infection being conveyed along the lines of travel into small communities, and the disease prevails in almost every county in the State. This will continue and become of interstate concern. In order to arouse the interest of the State and railroad officials in this grave matter, I wired for authority to return via Little Rock, where I had a conference with Dr. Donavant, president of the State board of health, and Acting Assistant Surgeon Gibson of this Service.

I found that Dr. Donavant is receiving telegrams and letters from all parts of the State for advice and assistance, without funds for even paying return letter postage. \* \* \*

Respectfully,

A. H. GLENNAN,  
*Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*